

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7, 9-24, 26, and 28-30 were pending of which Claims 1-7, 18-24, 29 and 30 were rejected and Claims 26 and 28 were objected to. Claims 9-17 were allowed.

Claims 26 and 28-30 have been amended and Claims 1-7 and 18-24 have been canceled.

The Examiner objected to Claims 26 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that Claims 26 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This has been done by incorporating the limitations of base Claim 23 and intervening Claim 24 into Claim 26 and amending Claim 28 to depend from Claim 26. The limitations of Claims 25 and 27 were previously incorporated into Claim 23 in the January 12, 2005 amendment, and Claims 25 and 27 were canceled. Thus the limitations of canceled Claims 25 and 27 are also included in amended Claim 26.

Applicants note that the Office Action was somewhat ambiguous as to the treatment of Claims 26 and 28 in that it also stated that "Claims 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kgan et al. in view of Freeman et al. in view of Kitch et al." (see page 6 of the Office Action). However, Claims 25 and 27 were previously canceled, and the explanation of the rejection of Claims 25-28 over Kgan et al. in view of Freeman et al. in view of Kitch et al. in the first three paragraphs on page 7 of the Office Action made no reference to the limitations of Claims 26 and 28. Therefore, the Applicants interpreted the Office Action as objecting to Claims 26 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but holding them to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

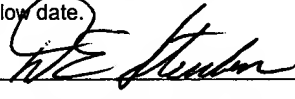
Claims 29 and 30 have been amended to depend from Claim 26, which is allowable.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 9-17,

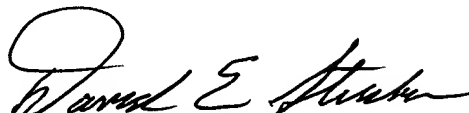
26 and 28-30. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 982-8201.

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the below date.

 6/25/05
Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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